Tri-Party Agreement

Changes Proposed to modifying Tri-Party Agreement

Negotiations for Disposition of Hanford Surplus Reactors

U.S. Department of Energy • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Washington State Department of Ecology

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington Department of Ecology (Tri-Parties) are seeking public comment on proposed modifications to the Tri-Party Agreement. These proposed modifications document agreed to work schedules which will govern the decommissioning and final disposal of DOE's nine surplus reactors along the Columbia River. **Public comments will be accepted from June 9 to July 23, 1997.**

To request a copy of the document, or to submit comments either written or electronically, please contact:

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BACKGROUND

Along the Columbia River, in Hanford's 100 Area, are nine reactors that produced plutonium for the nation's defense programs (identified as C, F, B, D, DR, H, KE, KW, and N). The oldest of these, the B Reactor, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, and may be retained as a national engineering landmark or museum. With the exception of N Reactor, which was retired from service in 1989, DOE's reactors had all been shut down by 1971.

In 1993, DOE issued its Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision for Decommissioning of Eight Surplus Reactors. This documented DOE's selected alternative of interim safe storage followed by one-piece reactor core removal to the interior of the Hanford Site for disposal. DOE's Record of Decision excluded N Reactor, which had not yet been formally shut down. The Tri-Parties have subsequently agreed that N Reactor will follow a similar path.

In early 1994, the Tri-Parties agreed to negotiate necessary reactor cleanup and removal schedules by December, 1996. A November, 1996, agreement in principle extended the negotiation deadline to March 31, 1997.

During the Tri-Parties' negotiations, the disposition of the reactors was divided into two phases. **Phase One:** Interim Safe Storage. Interim safe storage consists of ensuring that facility hazardous substances are, and will remain, safe and secure for an extended period of time until final disposition of the reactor cores. The exterior of the reactor building will be removed to the primary reactor shield wall and sealed, such that the facility can be maintained in an environmentally safe and secure condition. **Phase Two:** Final disposition. Final disposition will consist of removal of the reactor cores.

Wastes generated during phases one and two will be removed to meet established cleanup requirements pertaining to the Columbia River shoreline (Hanford's 100 Area). The Tri-Parties expect that resulting wastes will be disposed of at DOE's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility located in the interior 200 Area of the Hanford Site. The reactor cores will be placed in a disposal facility (to be determined) in the 200 Area.

In the years since DOE's reactors were shut down, surveillance and maintenance has continued at all of them, and some decontamination and decommissioning work has been initiated. C Reactor is currently being put into interim safe storage as a large scale technology demonstration project. During this project, all C Reactor ancillary facilities will be removed. On completion, all that will remain is the reactor core and shield wall. A new long-life roof will be installed over the shield wall/reactor core building. During this demonstration project a wide range of decommissioning technologies aimed at reducing costs, enhancing worker safety and the long term integrity of the remaining structure will be tested.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Key elements of the Tri-Parties' proposed changes include the following:

- Milestones are established requiring the completion of all activities necessary to place C Reactor facilities in interim safe storage. (September 1998)
- Milestones are established requiring the completion of all activities necessary to place F Reactor facilities in interim safe storage. (September 2003)
- An interim milestone for DR Reactor is established requiring issuance of a competitive procurement initiative. Initiative objectives include, but are not limited to, reassessing reactor environmental impact statement record of decision assumptions, and private sector state of the art decommissioning technologies. This information will aid the Tri-Parties in making course adjustments, and in determining whether or not the Tri-Parties should continue on an interim safe storage path (reactor by reactor), or move directly to final disposition. (October 2002)
- Interim milestones are established supporting decision processes regarding the future of B Reactor. (June 2000)
- A commitment between the Tri-Parties is established to complete negotiation of remaining reactor disposition schedules. (December 2003)

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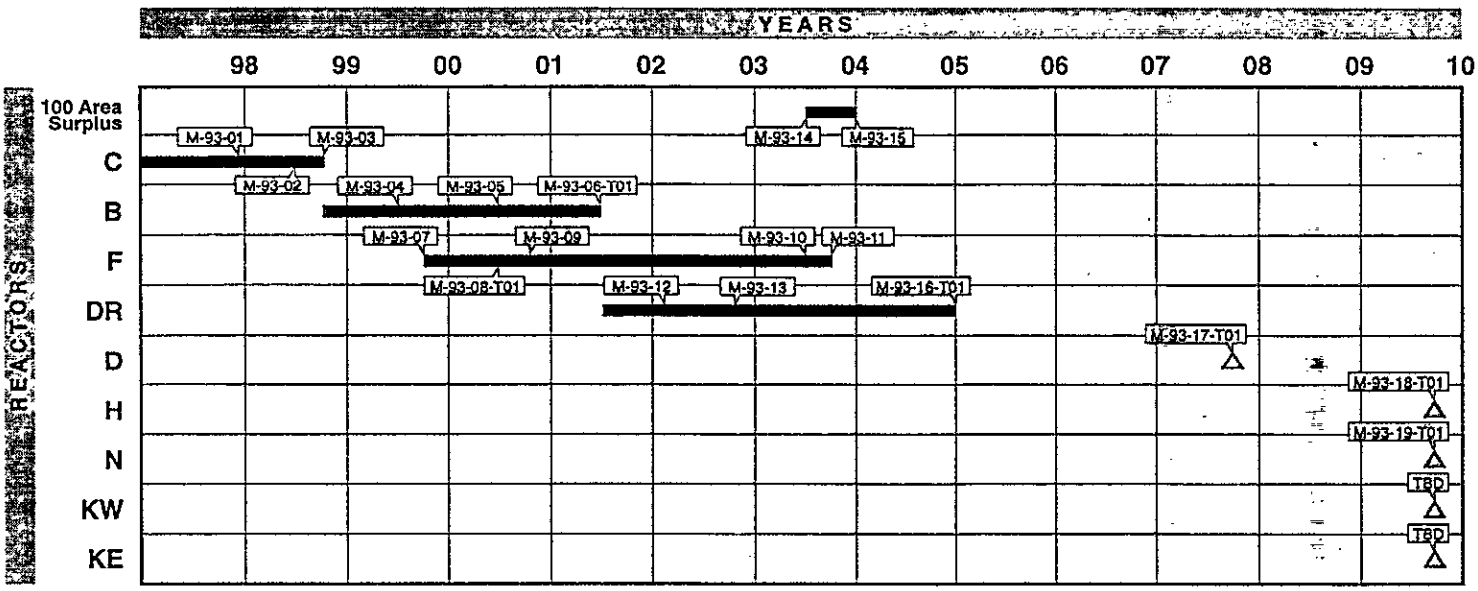
- Section 8.0 of the Tri-Party Agreement is modified to more accurately describe decommissioning of Hanford Site key facilities. The reactor buildings are proposed for classification as key facilities.
- Definitions for the terms interim safe storage and final disposition are proposed for addition to the Tri-Party Agreement, Appendix A.

PROPOSED 100 AREA SURPLUS REACTOR NEGOTIATIONS MILESTONES



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M-93-01 Submit recommendation for final disposition of 105-C Fuel Storage Basin to EPA for approval.

M-93-02 Submit 105-C Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for EPA approval in part.

M-93-03 Complete 105-C Reactor Interim Safe Storage Large-Scale Demonstration Project.

M-93-04 Submit 105-B hazards assessment and characterization report to EPA.

M-93-05 Issue B Reactor Phase II Feasibility Study Engineering Design Report for public comment.

M-93-06-T01 Submit B Reactor Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for EPA approval in part.

M-93-07 Initiate 105-F ISS characterization and design.

M-93-08-T01 Submit 105-F hazards assessment and characterization report to EPA.

M-93-09 Initiate 105-F ISS field activities.

M-93-10 Submit 105-F Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for EPA approval in part.

M-93-11 Complete 105-F Interim Safe Storage.

M-93-12 Issue 105-DR disposition competitive procurement package for ascertaining the most effective and efficient approach to FEIS ROD selected alternative implementation.

M-93-13 Initiate Characterization and Design of ISS for the 105-DR reactor.

M-93-14 Initiate negotiation of remaining surplus reactor disposition schedules.

M-93-15 Complete negotiation of remaining surplus reactor disposition schedules.

M-93-16-T01 Complete 105-DR Reactor Interim Safe Storage.

M-93-17-T01 Complete Interim Safe Storage for the 105-D Reactor.

M-93-18-T01 Complete Interim Safe Storage for the 105-H Reactor

M-93-19-T01 Complete 105/109N Reactor ISS design.

M-93-20-T01 Complete 105-N Interim Safe Storage. (TBD)

M-93-21-T01 Complete 105-KW Interim Safe Storage. (TBD)

M-93-22-T01 Complete 105-KE Interim Safe Storage. (TBD)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PARTIES' PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Also, you may call the Hanford Cleanup Toll-free Line at: **1-800-321-2008**, or contact DOE's Hanford Home Page at: **www.hanford.gov**

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